

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-10 are pending, with claims 7-10 temporarily withdrawn from consideration.

The specification has been amended to correct the clerical errors noted in the office action.

Claims 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. The word “parallel” has the standard definition of the points on two lines being equidistant. The distance can be zero. Claim 2, on the other hand, requires a nonzero distance.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tagawa (US 5,315,891). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

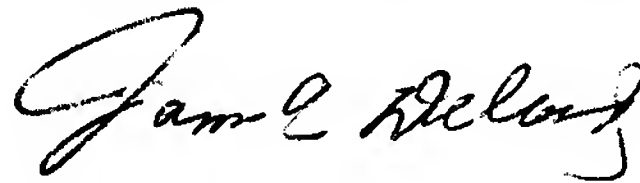
Claim 1 recites a rotatable twist-grip operating member, a rotatable transmission control member, and an intermediate member that includes an intermediate member detent for maintaining a rotational position of the operating member and the transmission control member. Tagawa discloses a rotatable twist-grip operating member (11), a speed change operation mechanism (12), and a transmission mechanism (13) disposed between operating member (11) and speed change operation mechanism (12) to transmit the operational rotation of operating member (11) to speed change operation mechanism (12). A cable reel (23) including a reel portion (31) is rotatably mounted around a shaft member (22) and is connected via the transmission mechanism (13) with the operating member (11). Cable reel (23) includes a retainer mechanism housing portion (35). While the components at (35) maintain the reel portion (31) in each of the gear positions, they do not maintain operating member (11) in any position. In fact, operating member (11) always returns to a neutral position as a result of spring (62). Thus, Tagawa neither discloses nor suggests an intermediate member that includes an intermediate member detent for maintaining a rotational position of the operating member and the transmission control member.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hanatani (US 2002/0128112). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the transmission control member pulls and releases a transmission control element. The office action refers to Hanatani's planet gear (46) as a transmission control member. However, planet gear (46) does not pull and release a transmission control element. Thus, Hanatani neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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